XT.B.BUFORD COMPANY

04-21-99

Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fisher Lane, HF-1 Rockville, MD 20857 1634 '99 APR 28 P2:07

Dear Dr. Henney:

Please protect me from genetically engineered foods.

Given my knowledge of human history I do not believe that genetically engineered foods are a solution to any of our human problems. Only population control can solve food shortages.

When I think of genetically engineered foods several things come to mind:

Simple plants like the seaweed used in aquariums has been introduced into the waterways and is clogging rivers and blocking passage by ships.

The brown snake, inadvertently introduced on Guam, has destroyed the bird population on that island.

The killer bees brought into South America to strengthen the native bees and that escaped to move up to our continent and be a treat to us.

The unconstrained use of antibiotics has strengthened the bugs we were trying to eliminate.

The wide use of uranium for a cure all, until we found out there was something we didn't understand about it. The wide spread use of x-ray photography in the medical field until we found out it was over used and destructive.

The development of atomic energy without recognition of the inability to dispose of the waste.

The consistent widening of roads to reduce traffic when this only allows more growth with a consequent increase in traffic.

"The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg." Our planet is not a laboratory - it is our home. If we introduce something into it we will be constrained to live with it.

I do not believe we know what the ramifications of genetically engineered plants and animals are. Given that we live in a capitalist economy and constraint of trade is market based, please give me the choice of what I purchase. If there is nothing wrong with the product then there is no harm in my being informed what I am buying.

I support the demand for safety testing and complete and prominent labeling.

Sincerely,

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Thomas B. Buford

Buford Architect

4718 25th Road North, Arlington, Virginia 22207

9211-0139

(703) 524-7595

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T.B.BUFORD COMPANY 4718 25th ROAD NORTH, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22207



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